Thomas A. Edison Papers Digital Edition

Edison-Miller Family Records

Edison-Ford Winter Estates, Fort Myers, Fla.

[X104P-F] Miller, Mary Emily

Edison-Miller Family Papers

Title

[X104P-F] Miller, Mary Emily

Description

These documents consist of correspondence from Mary E. Miller (1867-1946) to her mother Mary Valinda Miller, her sister Mina Miller Edison, and other members of the Miller family. Also included is a telegram by William W. Nichols (1860-1948), an engineer and businessman whom Mary married in 1912. The dated letters cover the period 1894-1898 and 1912. Included are references to Theodore M. Edison, the youngest son of Thomas and Mina who was born in July 1898, and to the quarantine of John V. Miller at Montauk, New York. Among the undated items is a postcard from 1909 mentioning a Thanksgiving Eve dinner with John H. Kellogg, superintendent of the Battle Creek Sanitarium in Michigan. Mary had been admitted to the sanitarium a month earlier following a nervous breakdown. The last document is a 1912 telegram by Nichols, written one week after the death of Mary Valinda, informing Mina that Mary had successfully undergone an operation at Battle Creek.

Three letters were added in August 2012.

URL

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/folder/X104P-F

Identifier

X104P-F

Alternative Title

Edison-Miller Family Papers -- Miller, Mary Emily

Is Part Of

Edison-Miller Family Papers

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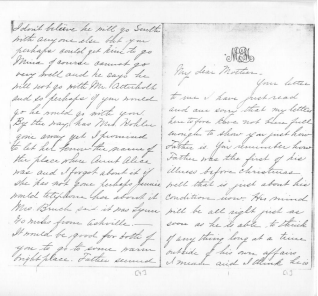

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[X104PA], Letter from Mary Emily Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, February 5th, 1894

Title
[X104PA], Letter from Mary Emily Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, February 5th, 1894

Author
Miller, Mary Emily

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Bruch, Kate Patterson
- Young, Charles Augustus
- Yardley, Margaret Tufts Swan
- Miller, Theodore Westwood
- Miller, John Vincent
- Miller, Lewis
- Miller, Robert Anderson
- Miller, Jane Eliza
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva
- Miller, Alice Newton (Mrs Jacob)

Date
1894-02-05

Type
Letter

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
X104P-F

Document ID
X104PA

URL
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Timestamp
5 February 1894

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https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104PA/manifest

I don't believe he will go South with any one else but you perhaps could get him to go Mina of course cannot go very well and he says he will not go with Mr. Atterholt and so perhaps if you would go he would go with you. By the way, has Mrs. Hobbs gone away yet I promised to let her know the name of the place where Aunt Alice was and I forgot about it if she has not gone perhaps Jennie would telephone her about it Mrs. Bruce said it was Lynn 40 miles from Ashville.— It would be good for both of you to go to some warm bright place. Father seemed

[4]

M E M

My dear Mother—

Your letter to me I have just read and am sorry that my letters heretofore have not been full enough to show you just how Father is. You remember how Father was the first of his illness before Christmas well that is just about his condition now. His mind will be all right just as soon as he is able to think of any thing long at a time outside of his own affairs I mean and I think he is

[1]

improving daily in that direction as his conversation with Rinky about the carrig question would illustrate. I suppose because we say in each letter that he is better you think it queer that he is not well in three weeks - well darling you know he was six or seven weeks failing day by day and one does not mend in nervous troubles as fast as they decline but each little thing we see him do different from the day before we take as encouragement that he is better and that is why nearly every letter has said that he was or is better. We had a telegram from him this morning he spent Sunday with Dr. Young and today he is with Johnson and Theodore Mina and I were to meet him today but Mina had an engagement with Mrs. Yardley for Sorority so she could not go we telegraphed the boys to help him until tomorrow Tuesday and we would meet them on that day we have received no answer so it is all right. Don't worry about him, darling, his mind will be all right as he becomes rested he sleeps then a great deal during the day and that is so good for him. Would you not come and I will go home I know he would love to have you with him.

C3]

C3]

have not that hollow, drawn look but his eyes are still very tired looking - no he has not shed tears as yet but his eyes look moist or natural but for the tired expression in them - but oh they are so much brighter - a good bright that is - than they were at home. He still wants to cover his head and he likes to go in the library when it is all dark in there and call himself names - but we go with him and bring him out before long he does not act as he did but just a little but we want him to stop it altogether. You must sleep well and be strong when he

M E M

to dread the snow and the wind so much about a week ago when it blew so frightfully but since then he has said very little about it he does not seem to mind the weather so much. You see I am alone today Father with the boys and Mina is in New York at Sorons - It is very lonesome here but I have been romping with the babies and we have passed the time very pleasantly. What are you going to do about your corset covers shall I get the money or will you

and me a good fitting one to have two made from I have been expecting an answer to this for some time and I don't know which you want me to do. The curtains I have decided to fix up myself as it is very simple and it would be nonsence to pay out for it. it would hardly take half a day to do it ourselves - I am anxious to get home and Father is too he looks every day for the promised telegram and says he had better have his things all packed so as to be able to start as soon as the telegram arrives but we tell him we can pack him

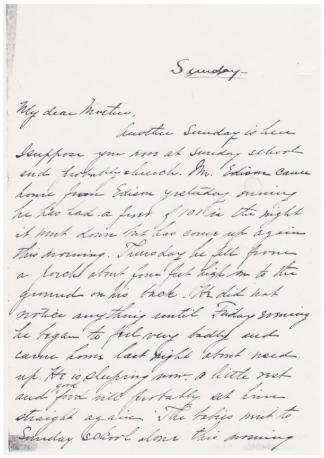
up in two minutes and then he thinks that will do just as well. He says it is so funny how it all holds off - He says in all his letters that he is physically stronger but not much better mentally well Mother his letter itself denies that. The last letter he wrote to you was one of three I think he sat three two hours writing - to John and Tesso - and I think the three was to Robert but I am not sure so you see what a great improvement don't worry about his mind that comes all right as fast as his strength returns. His cheeks are much fuller they

returns he sleeps well so you need not worry at night about him he snores heavily and in the morning generally says he rested very well. Here are the babes and I must stop. I guess you know as much as I do now about Father anyway and any more would only be a repetition. With a great deal of love to you and the others I am your loving daughter

Mary.

Monday Feb. 5/94.

[9]



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[X104PA1], Letter from Mary Emily Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, June 24th, 1894

Title
[X104PA1], Letter from Mary Emily Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, June 24th, 1894

Editor's Notes
Supplied year, month, and day

Author
Miller, Mary Emily

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Chautauqua Institution
- Ogden Ore Separating Plant
- Harkness, Edward Stephen
- Sheldon, Midge
- Miller, John Vincent
- Edison, William Leslie
- Edison, Theodore Miller
- Miller, Grace A
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1894-06-24

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE health
- Sports, leisure, recreation
- Health and safety

Folder ID
X104P-F

Document ID
X104PA1

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Timestamp
24 June 1894

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Sunday-

My dear Mother,

Another Sunday is here I suppose you are at Sunday school and probably church. Mr. Edison came home from Edison yesterday morning he has had a fever of 101 in the night it went down but has come up again this morning. Thursday he fell from a porch about four feet high on to the ground on his back. He did not notice anything until Friday morning he began to feel very badly and came home last night about used up. He is sleeping now a little rest and good food will probably set him straight again. The fabric went to Sunday School alone this morning

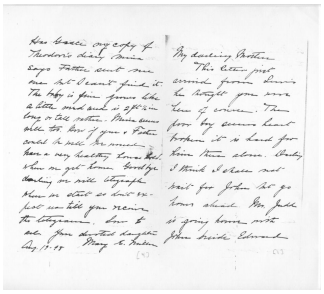
as Nina wanted to stay with Pinky and it is too hot to drive so Grace is out with them. It is frightfully hot here I hope you can't it over there. I told you in my other letter that we were going on a picnic - we went last Friday and had a very pleasant time but the place itself does not compare with any of our numerous picnic grounds at home. We tried fishing but William was the only successful one he caught one little sun fish. We had a very nice little supper and wound up with watermelon. John & Ed Harkness are still here we all very found of Ed Harkness. He is a very pleasant fellow, to have round. Suppose he will go tomorrow Grace and Sam going in to New York tomorrow. Grace is going to shop a little for herself. and Sam going to keep her company as they usually do it is so terrifically hot

This Wednesday we all go to New London to see the Freshman Gale race against the Harvard men. Expect to have hysterics in my excitement and Irma says she had them the other time she saw the race so there will be a very great noise and cheering etc from her corner. It is exciting even when no one is on the crew that one knows but to have Theodore or one of them will be terrible. He will simply have to lay Irma down to the seat from her report of the last race. He will only go for the day and not stay for the Senior race or varsity race neither as it would mean three days at the hotel as we are only going to take in the one we are most interested in. My dress waist from Mrs. Gunn has not come yet & hardly know what to wear if that does not arrive in time. Helen phoned her last night and hope she will send it at once.

William had his tonsils taken out yesterday they seemed to have

a very pleasant time. He is mad to get to Chautauqua on his bicycle. Harris on that account he has asked me to speak in his stead. He can hardly wait till he is there. It is so hot here I do not see how Nina can possibly stand it until Kinky is ready. I am going to coax her to go with me next week. I hardly know what to do if she will not go for I do not want to go to Chautauqua alone and still John & Theodore want to go and they will want someone with them. Grace is going home to be with you as soon as she has made a short visit with Midge which will be a week from Thursday. so you will not be alone long. Well darling goodbye. Give my love to Father the boys and Richard and Jane. With oceans to yourself and hoping to hear from you soon —

Your loving daughter —
Mary E. Miller



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[X104PB], Letter from Mary Emily Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, August 19th, 1898

Title
[X104PB], Letter from Mary Emily Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, August 19th, 1898

Author
Miller, Mary Emily

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Judd, James Robert
- Miller, Theodore Westwood
- Miller, John Vincent
- Miller, Lewis
- Miller, Edward Burkett
- Edison, Theodore Miller
- Miller, Grace A
- Miller, Lewis Alexander
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Date
1898-08-19

Type
Letter

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
X104P-F

Document ID
X104PB

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Timestamp
19 August 1898

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Has Grace my copy of Theodora's diary Mina says Father sent me one but I can't find it. The baby is fine grows like a little weed and is 2ft ½ in long or tall rather. Mina seems well too. How if you & Father could be well we must have a very healthy household when we get home. Good bye darling we will telegraph when we start so don't expect us till you receive the telegram. Love to all. Your devoted daughter Mary E. Miller

Aug. 19-98

[4]

My darling Brother

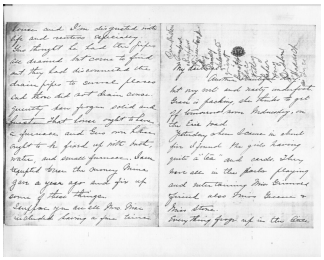
This letter just arrived from Lewis he brought you ours here of course. Then from by seems heart broken it is hard for him here alone. Darling I think I shall not wait for John but go home ahead. Mr. Judd is going home with John beside Edward

[1]

so Mina and I are going to start on ahead, there is no telling how long John will be kept in quarantine. Edward has sent us no word but we received a letter from John as you know as he said he wrote you and he is all right. We are all anxious to see or hear from him every minute but no word comes. We is

anxious to get away as we are to have him.

Do nothing, darling, in the way of fixing up Mina will perhaps go home first with the baby and the other children they are going to be contented there. That will be the best way. Gracie's letter came this morning You must keep me both you and Father



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[X104PB1] Letter, 1899-1901

Title
[X104PB1] Letter, 1899-1901

Author
Miller, Mary Emily

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Chautauqua Institution
- McWilliams, Sarah
- Oak Place (Miller Family Home)
- Schmidt, August
- Miller, Robert Anderson
- Edison, Theodore Miller
- Miller, Grace A
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Studebaker, Anne, (Mrs Charles Carlisle)

Date
1899-1901

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Finances (TAE and family)
- Travel

Folder ID
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Document ID
X104PB1

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Timestamp
1 January 1899

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house and I'm disgusted with life and renters especially.
Geo thought he had the pipes all drained but come to find out they had disconnected the drain pipes to several places and those did not drain consq. Quently have frozen solid and burst. That house ought to have a furnace and Geo own house ought to be fixed up with bath, water, and small furnace. Dam tempted to use the money Mina gave a year ago and fix up some of these things.
I suppose you are all Mrs. Mac included having a fine time.

Mrs Hutton
Crawford
Dickson
Pierce Wood
Perry
Cassidy
Delamater
Dr Hunt
Bennett
Hall
Fuller
Hunt
Anderson
Hannah
Shuler

My darling
Austin beautiful day.
but my mt and nasty underfoot.
Grace is packing, she thinks to get off tomorrow or Wednesday, on the Erie road.
Yesterday when I came in about five I found the girls having quite a "tea" and cards. They were all in the parlor playing and entertaining Miss Grimes friend also Miss Greene & Miss Stone.
Everything frozz up in the cities

Florida is hardly worth the trouble with such a warm winter but this slush is horrible now and I suppose will continue until after April so the Floridas are way ahead of us in the matter.

Anne Carlisle is at Coronada Beach. She has her baby with her; as the baby is never well in South Bend she has to travel with it to warm climates.

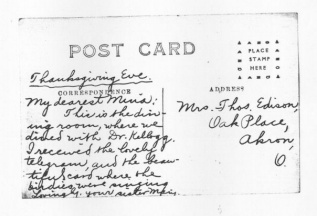
I invited my Sunday school class with all the other girl classes of the circle for Saturday afternoon next. My little class is very cute I'm quite proud of my little girls.

Little Theodora no doubt is wild about valentines. How is the little mannekine. Are we to have him this summer? What are the plans for summer. Mother, you will probably not want to go anywhere that is if you come home - you'll say you have been away enough. Roberts people are planning to take a cottage a Chautauqua I wrote them we would probably want ours but I don't know what you said.

Good bye - Lots of love to each one. You must let me know what you a planning - not knowing what your plans are we are in the dark what you are doing. I have a letter from Grace any more at all St Johns Rectory will run much I count in her letters

Yours lovingly Mary

To Mother



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[X104PC], Letter from Mary Emily Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, November 24th, 1909

Title
[X104PC], Letter from Mary Emily Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, November 24th, 1909

Editor's Notes
Supplied year, month, and day

Author
Miller, Mary Emily

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Battle Creek Sanitarium (Michigan)
- Kellogg, John Harvey

Date
1909-11-24

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Health and medicine

Folder ID
X104P-F

Document ID
X104PC

URL
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24 November 1909

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POST CARD

PLACE STAMP HERE

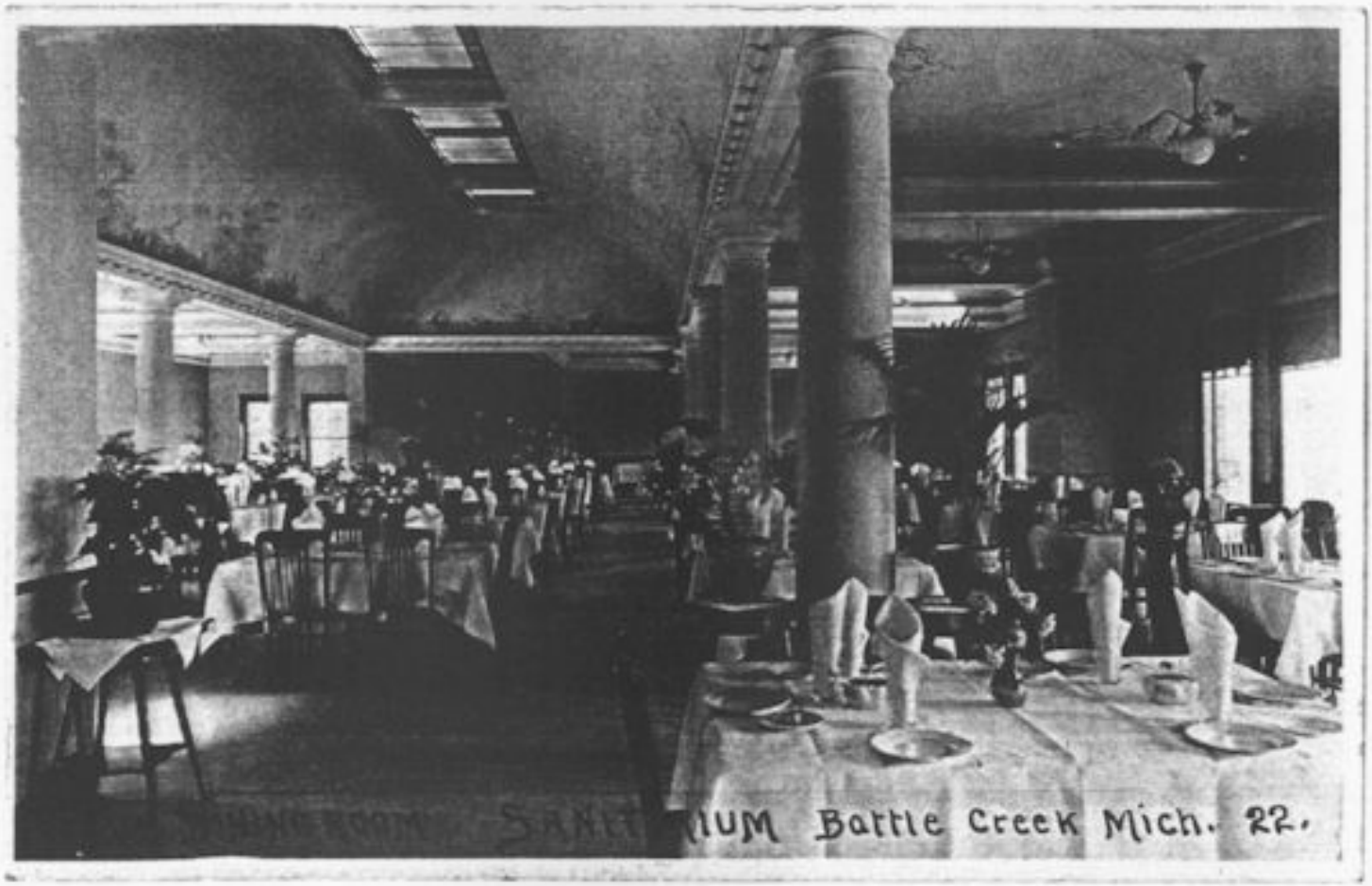
Thanksgiving Eve.

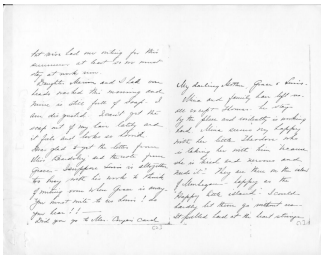
CORRESPONDENCE

My dearest Mina:
This is the dining room, where we dished with Dr. Kellogg. I received the lovely telegram, and the beautiful card where the birdies were singing
Lovingly, your sister Mpis.

ADDRESS

Mrs. Thos. Edison,
Oak Place,
Akron,
O.


SANI
IUM Battle Creek Mich. 22.



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[X104PD], Letter from Mary Emily Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, Grace A Miller, Lewis Alexander Miller, September 1912

Title
[X104PD], Letter from Mary Emily Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, Grace A Miller, Lewis Alexander Miller, September 1912

Editor's Notes
Supplied year and month

Author
Miller, Mary Emily

Recipient

- Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)
- Miller, Grace A
- Miller, Lewis Alexander

Mentioned

- Conger, Emily Bronson (Mrs Arthur L.)
- Monhegan Island (Maine)
- Upton, Margaret Storm (Mrs Francis R.)
- Edison, Theodore Miller
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Nichols, William Wallace
- Nichols, Marian
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1912-09-00

Type
Letter

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
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Document ID
X104PD

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1 September 1912

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My darling Mother, Grace & Louis.

Mina and family have left us. all except Thomas. he stays by the place and indeally is working hard. Mina seems very happy with her little Theodore who is taking her with him "because she is tired and nervous and needs it." They are there on the island of Mackinac — happy as the "Happy little island." I could hardly let them go without us — It pulled hard at the heart strings

[1]

but now I see nothing for this summer at least so we must stay at work now.

Daughter Marion and I had our heads washed this morning and mine is still full of soap. I am disgusted. I can't get the soap out of my hair lately and it feels and looks so horrid.

I was glad to get the letters from Miss Bardsley and the note from Grace — I suppose Louis is altogether too busy with his work to think of writing now when Grace is away. You must write to us Louis! do you hear!! ——

Did you go to Mrs. Conyers card

[2]

party. I think I'll write Mrs. Conger regularly as she answers so quickly and tells me a lot about you all.
I am glad we got what there was of the school water question - Ate Mrs. didn't get it away from us - but I should think the mill proposition a very poor one - They are so very treacherous! - It would cost the schools a pretty sum to take spring water but all cities do it and pay more than two cents.
I have some beauty roses here in front of me that Alma sent me - They are pink and white and put the finishing touch to the wall paper - which is blue with pink roses for a border.
I do wish the hot weather would let up there - by the papers we see it is a little cooler in Ohio and I hope Mother is better for it. It worries me and we all to feel she is prostrated by the heat and we can do nothing to help - Itry hard to say nothing but my heart strings just stretch to the breaking point and a lump is big in my throat all the time. I feel so idle and doing so little good here. As soon as this heat is over

She has wonderful hair - all curly and the bird cut after it was washed all about her shoulders I wonder if you how she would ever brush it but she did and wanted to do it alone - She says the hair dresser pull it - not so.

I was glad to hear from Mr. Cowgers letter that all Joe's babies were doing well. Joe certainly has quite a family =

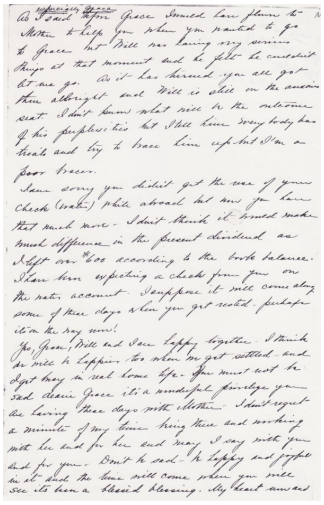
Don't forget to have your pictures taken - you & Mrs. Cowger, Mother I think it would be nice to have - and Grace & in it too. or have several different ways. Lewis too - I have so few pictures of any of the family

[5]

a little I have to go in with Marion and get her school clothes - It seems so far from my own life and duty that I long for the duty I left at Oak Place - Marion needs a Mother I know and she seems anxious to have a home - but I often feel her own Mother ought to be here - and I in my little corner there with you! But Will says - I help him - I doubt it myself - I was conceited to think I could help anyone - but I'll keep on trying now I've undertaken this line - marriage is a wonderful thing to think I can't stop now even if I would - It's strange isn't it?

We are going together to call on Mrs. Upton - if our hair ever dries

[4]



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[X104PF], Letter from Mary Emily Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, Grace A Miller, September 1912

Title
[X104PF], Letter from Mary Emily Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, Grace A Miller, September 1912

Editor's Notes
Supplied year and month

Author
Miller, Mary Emily

Recipient

- Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)
- Miller, Grace A

Mentioned

- Waymouth, Grace Cromwell
- Monhegan Island (Maine)
- Dodge, Nellie (Mrs Burdette L.)
- Upton, Margaret Storm (Mrs Francis R.)
- Nichols, William Wallace
- Nichols, Marian

Date
1912-09-00

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Travel
- Health and medicine

Folder ID
X104P-F

Document ID
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1 September 1912

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especially Grace
As I said upon Grace I smiled Can flown to
Mother to help you when you wanted to go
to Grace but Will was having my serious
things at that moment and he felt he couldn't
let me go. As it has turned you all got
them altogether and Will is still on the anxious
seat. I don't know what will be the outcome
of his perplexities but I tell him everybody has
trials and try to face him up but I'm a
poor tracer.

Sam sorry you didn't get the use of your
check (water) while abroad but now you have
that much more. I don't think it would make
much difference in the present dividend as
I left over $600 according to the bank balance.
I have been expecting a check from you on
the water account. I suppose it will come along
some of these days when you get rested. perhaps
it's on the way now!

Yes, Grace, Will and I are happy together. I think
he will be happier too when he get settled and
I get busy in real home life. You must not be
sad dearie Grace it's a wonderful privilege you
are having these days with Mother. I don't regret
a minute of my time being there and working
with her and for her and may I say with you
and for you. Don't be sad. Be happy and joyful
in it and the time will come when you will
see it's been a blessed blessing. My heart runs and

It's long since you wrote me the little sad section of the letter from Cambridge that went to Akron and my letter is terribly mal à propos- but it's an answer to the little cry in your heart at the time of my departure from home. I just sobbed in the auto as I left. I sob now- tears roll down my cheeks as I write- but it's all foolish- We are both wonderfully blessed and happy- only we don't know it always. But we must, so there! —

Isn't delighted Nellie Dodge feels so friendly. I think Mother would enjoy her dropping in often:

Wanted so much to go home and telegraph you from there to stay as long as you

my body two longs to be with you there in the old place. It was such a full life. I was so busy and now it seems as tho' I'd never be busy again- It's only morning and evenings that I can claim any "raison d'être" the rest of the day it's just waiting! So be happy Mina and I both long to be where you are and who knows but what some body will snap you up and grab you away from the old homestead- I could weep when I think on't.

Darling Mother I see her while I write what a blessing you are to her- how she longs to have you happy with her and with her every minute- and Grace you have such a dear friend right there with you it's a sweet friendship

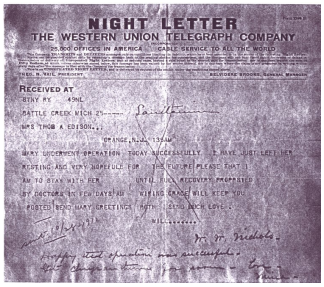
wanted & was needed with Grace. I am sure
I could I am done so had it been this week in
stead of last as it's a little easier for Will
this week - and Marion is here. That would have
been a difficulty - tho' so she could stay with
her -

I am so glad Grace is better. I'll enclose
Marion's letter and you can see she kind
of care but no one there. She is there in
your little cottage. I wish you might have
seen Madeleine's letter to her Mother about
it all. They were very cute -

Now goodbye - you dearies all. I'd love
to hold you tight this very minute. I wish
I might walk to your house for my outing.
Marion and I are going to call on Mrs.
Upton but I wish it were you darlings! -

Your loving - devoted Mary.

Why don't you complete putting in the
electric fan -? It makes a great
difference in the room! —


NIGHT LETTER
THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

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[X104PG], Telegram from William Wallace Nichols to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 28th, 1912

Title
[X104PG], Telegram from William Wallace Nichols to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 28th, 1912

Author
Nichols, William Wallace

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Battle Creek Sanitarium (Michigan)
- Miller, Grace A
- Miller, Mary Emily

Date
1912-10-28

Type
Telegram

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Health and medicine

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NIGHT LETTER

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

INCORPORATED

25,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD

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This is an UNREPEATED NIGHT LETTER, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THEO. N. VAIL, PRESIDENT BELVIDERE BROOKS, GENERAL MANAGER

RECEIVED AT

87NY RY 49NL

BATTLE CREEK MICH 25----- Saultstemm

MRS THOS A EDISON.,,

ORANGE,N.J. 135AM

MARY UNDERWENT OPERATION TODAY SUCCESSFULLY I HAVE JUST LEFT HER RESTING AND VERY HOPEFULL FOR THE FUTURE PLEASE THAT I AM TO STAY WITH HER UNTIL FULL RECOVERY PROPPSIED BY DOCTORS IN FEW DAYS AM WIRING GRACE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED SEND MARY GREETINGS BOTH SEND MUCH LOVE . WILL.....

pmk. 10/28-1912

M. M. Nichols -

Happy that operation was successful.
Glad change in terms for women - Love -
Mina -